



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"Enriching Lives"

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
www.ladpw.org

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

October 23, 2003

IN REPLY PLEASE **PD-3**
REFER TO FILE:

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**SANTA CLARA RIVER-SOUTH FORK
DROP STRUCTURE AND INTERIM ROCK GROINS
NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND AUTHORITY TO PROCEED
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5
3 VOTES**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Consider the Negative Declaration for the proposed project to construct a drop structure, access ramp, and rock groins in the Santa Clara River-South Fork in the City of Santa, concur that the project with the proposed mitigation measures will not have a significant effect on the environment, find that the Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment of the County, and approve the Negative Declaration.
2. Adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program outlined in Attachment C of the Negative Declaration to ensure compliance with the project and conditions adopted to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment.
3. Approve the project and authorize Public Works to carry out the project.
4. Authorize Public Works to pay the \$1,250 fee to the State Department of Fish and Game as required by the Fish and Game and Public Resources Codes.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the proposed project is to control erosion of the channel invert and provide flood protection.

The proposed project consists of construction of a 350-foot-wide reinforced concrete drop structure in the Santa Clara River-South Fork approximately 400 feet downstream of Magic Mountain Parkway and a reinforced concrete invert ramp. The project also includes construction of six interim rock groins, each approximately 34 feet long, at the toe of the existing levee at Private Drain No. 1947, located on the south side of the South Fork downstream of Valencia Boulevard. The proposed project will require acquisition of right of way from Newhall Land and Farming Company.

An environmental impact analysis/documentation is a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirement that is to be used in evaluating the environmental impacts of this project and should be considered in the approval of this project. As the project administrator, we are also the lead agency in terms of meeting the requirements of the CEQA.

The Initial Study of Environmental Factors indicated that the proposed project with the incorporation of mitigation measures would not have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, in accordance with the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, a Negative Declaration (ND) was prepared and circulated for public review.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence as this action will provide residents of the City of Santa Clarita with additional flood protection, which improves the quality of life in the County.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County's General Fund. Sufficient funds for the proposed drop structure, access ramp, and rock groins project are available to the Flood Control District.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Under the CEQA, any lead agency preparing a ND must provide a public notice within a reasonable period of time prior to certification of the ND. To comply with this requirement, a Public Notice pursuant to Section 21092 of the Public Resources Code was published in the Los Angeles News Daily on February 7, 2002. Copies of the ND were provided for public review to the Newhall Library and the City of Santa Clarita. Notices regarding the availability of the ND were also mailed to residents within the vicinity of the project.

The public review period for the ND ended on March 4, 2002. We received comments from the State of California Department of Transportation, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, the City of Santa Clarita, and Newhall Land and Farm.

Based upon the Initial Study of Environmental Factors, it was determined that the project with incorporation of mitigation measures will not have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, approval of the ND is requested at this time.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The project will not have a significant impact on current flood control services or projects currently planned.

NEGATIVE DECLARATION/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTS

CEQA requires public agency decision makers to document and consider the environmental implication of their action.

Mitigation measures have been included as part of the project. We have prepared the enclosed Reporting and Monitoring Program that includes maintaining records to ensure compliance with environmental mitigation measures adopted as part of this project. Your Board is being asked to approve and authorize Public Works to carry out this project.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
October 23, 2003
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A fee must be paid to the State Department of Fish and Game when certain notices required by CEQA are filed with the County Clerk. Upon approval of the ND by your Board, Public Works will submit a check in the amount of \$1,250 to the County Clerk to pay the fee. In addition, a \$25 handling fee will be paid to the County Clerk for processing. We will also file a Notice of Determination in accordance with the requirements of Section 21152(a) of the California Public Resources Code.

CONCLUSION

Please return one approved copy of this letter to this Department.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. NOYES
Director of Public Works

AA:ph

C040575

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Enc.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR
SANTA CLARA RIVER - SOUTH FORK
(DROP STRUCTURE AND INTERIM ROCK GROINS)

I. Location and Brief Description

The proposed project is located in the City of Santa Clarita. The proposed project consists of construction of a 350-foot-wide reinforced concrete drop structure in the Santa Clara River-South Fork approximately 400 feet downstream of Magic Mountain Parkway, and a reinforced concrete invert ramp. The project also includes construction of six interim rock groins, each approximately 34 feet long, at the toe of the existing levee at Private Drain No. 1947, located on the south side of the South Fork downstream of Valencia Boulevard. The proposed project will require acquisition of right of way from Newhall Land and Farming Company.

The purpose of the project is to control erosion of the channel invert and provide flood protection.

II. Mitigation Measures Included in the Project to Avoid Potentially Significant Effects

Focused studies conducted at the project site as part of the Natural River Management Plan (NRMP), found no endangered species or species of special concern present. The NRMP is a joint Environmental Impact/Environmental Impact Statement developed for the Valencia Company which addressed the impacts and provided mitigation measures for projects that would occur in the Santa Clara River South Fork. As part of the NRMP, preconstruction surveys will be required prior to construction of the project. With the incorporation of the mitigation measures in the NRMP if necessary, the proposed project impact on the environment would be considered less than significant.

III. Finding of No Significant Effect

Based on the attached Initial Study, it has been determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

INITIAL STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

1. **Project Title:** Santa Clara River-South Fork (Drop Structure and Interim Rock Groins)
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Mr. Albert E. Anidi, (626) 458-5199
4. **Project Location:** City of Santa Clarita
5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803.
6. **General Plan Designation:** Maintenance/Reconstruction
7. **Zoning:** Open Space
8. **Description of Project:** The proposed project consists of construction of a 350-foot-wide reinforced concrete drop structure in the Santa Clara River-South Fork approximately 400 feet downstream of Magic Mountain Parkway, and a reinforced concrete invert ramp. The project also includes construction of six interim rock groins, each approximately 34 feet long, at the toe of the existing levee at Private Drain No. 1947, located on the south side of the South Fork downstream of Valencia Boulevard. The proposed project will require acquisition of right of way from Newhall Land and Farming Company.
9. **Surrounding Land Use and Settings:**
 1. Project Site - Santa Clara River-South Fork is a soft bottom channel with concrete lined slopes. The invert of the channel contains shrubs, weeds, and mixed vegetation.
 - B. **Surrounding Properties** - The topography of the surrounding project area is generally flat. The surrounding properties consist of mostly businesses. Animal life includes rodents, birds, insects, etc. Plant life within the surrounding properties consists of mostly landscape tree and weeds.
10. **Other agencies whose approval is required (and permits needed):** Permits will be required from the following agencies prior to construction:
 - United States Army Corps of Engineers - Section 404 Permit
 - Regional Water Quality Control Board - Section 401 Permit
 - California Department of Fish and Game

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" or "Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated," as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils
<input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic
<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance	

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Albert E. Anidi
Signature

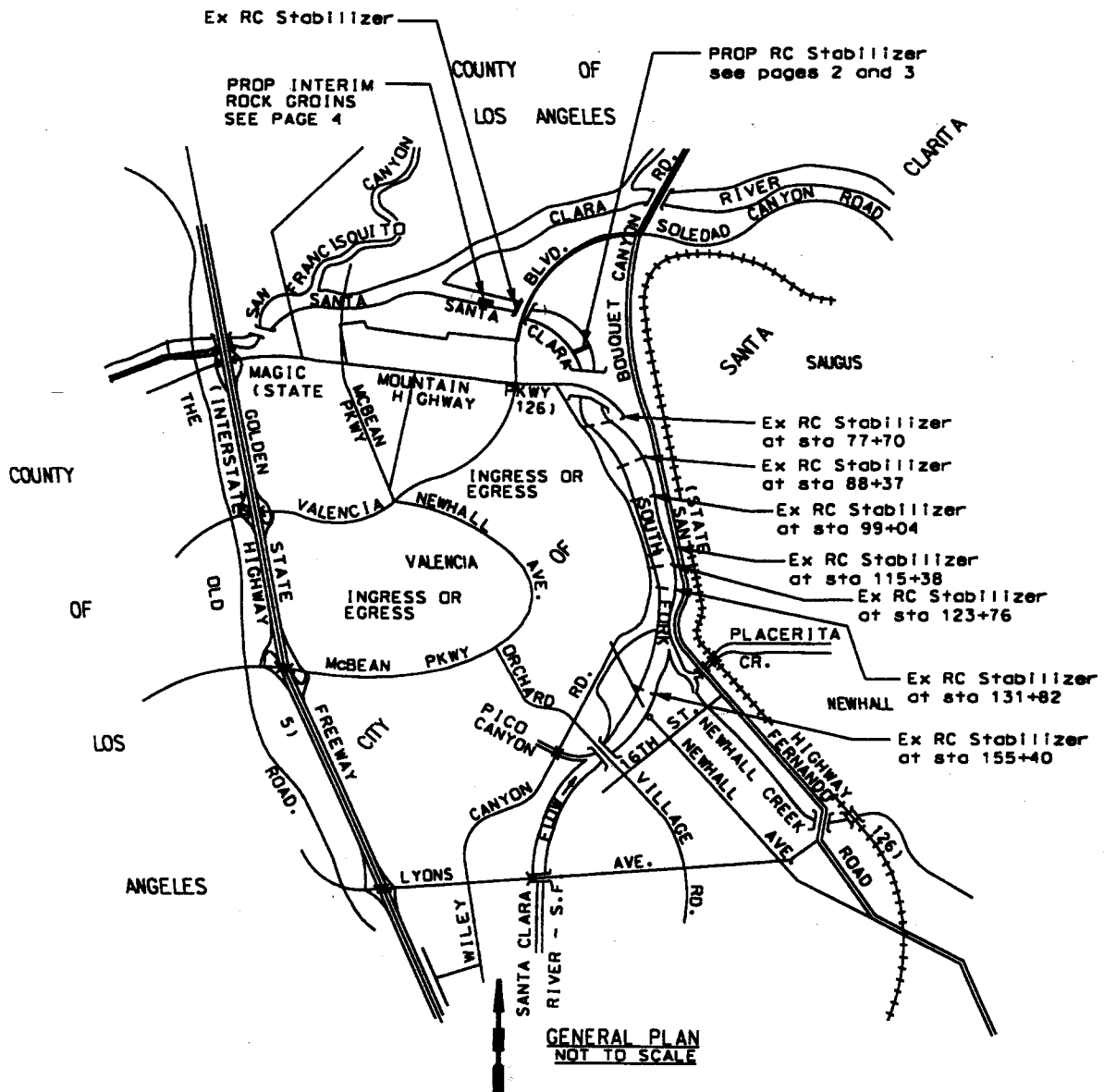
Albert E. Anidi
Printed Name

October 9, 2003
Date

LACDPW
For

Attach.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
SANTA CLARA RIVER-SOUTH FORK



PREPARED BY A. MOHSEN	COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
DATE 7-3-00	SANTA CLARA RIVER - SOUTH FORK REINFORCED CONCRETE STABILIZER AND INTERIM ROCK GROINS
SCALE NOT TO SCALE	

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) "Potential Significant Impact" is appropriate if an effect is significant or potentially significant, or if the lead agency lacks information to make a finding of insignificance. If there are one or more "Potential Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required.
- 4) "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potential Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVIII, "Earlier Analysis," may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR or other California Environmental Quality Act process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). Earlier analyses are discussed in Section XVIII at the end of the checklist.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). See the sample question below. A source list should be attached and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

**SANTA CLARA RIVER - SOUTH FORK
(DROP STRUCTURE AND INTERIM ROCK GROINS)**

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. <u>AESTHETICS</u> - Would the project:						
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?					X
b)	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?					X
c)	Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			X		
d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?					X
II. <u>AGRICULTURE RESOURCES</u> - In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:						
a)	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?					X
b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?					X
c)	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use?					X
III. <u>AIR QUALITY</u> - Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:						
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?					X

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	b)	Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?				X
	c)	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable Federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for zone precursors)?				X
	d)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X	
	e)	Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			X	

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Would the project:

	a)	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		X		
	b)	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		X		
	c)	Have a substantial adverse effect on Federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?		X		
	d)	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident, migratory fish, or wildlife species; or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors; or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?			X	
	e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				X
	f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan; Natural Community Conservation Plan; or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan?				X

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. <u>CULTURAL RESOURCES</u> - Would the project:						
	a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?				X
	b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?				X
	c)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				X
	d)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				X
VI. <u>GEOLOGY AND SOILS</u> - Would the project:						
	a)	Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
		i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a know fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				X
		ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?				X
		iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				X
		iv) Landslides?				X
	b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				X
	c)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?				X
	d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?				X
	e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available				X

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
		for the disposal of waste water?				

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Would the project:

	a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				X
	b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			X	
	c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			X	
	d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code, Section 65962.5, and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				X
	e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
	f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
	g)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
	h)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?			X	

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY - Would the project:

	a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?				X
	b)	Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater			X	

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
		table level (e.g., the production rate of preexisting nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?				
	c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?			X	
	d)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?			X	
	e)	Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?				X
	f)	Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?				X
	g)	Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a Federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				X
	h)	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?			X	
	i)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				X
	j)	Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				X
IX. <u>LAND USE AND PLANNING</u> - Would the project:						
	a)	Physically divide an established community?				X
	b)	Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of any agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				X
	c)	Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation				X

		Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
		plan or natural community conservation plan?			
X. MINERAL RESOURCES - Would the project:					
	a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?			X
	b)	Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?			X
XI. NOISE - Would the project result in:					
	a)	Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies?		X	
	b)	Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			X
	c)	A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X
	d)	A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?		X	
	e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?			X
	f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?			X
XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING - Would the project:					
	a)	Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?			X
	b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?			X

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	c)	Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES -						
	a)	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
		Fire protection?				X
		Police protection?				X
		Schools?				X
		Parks?				X
		Other public facilities?				X
XIV. RECREATION -						
	a)	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				X
	b)	Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				X
XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC - Would the project:						
	a)	Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?			X	
	b)	Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the County Congestion Management Agency for designated roads or highways?				X

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	c)	Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				X
	d)	Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				X
	e)	Result in inadequate emergency access?				X
	f)	Result in inadequate parking capacity?				X
	g)	Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?				X

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS - Would the project:

	a)	Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				X
	b)	Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
	c)	Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?			X	
	d)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				X
	e)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				X
	f)	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				X
	g)	Comply with Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				X

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE -

	a)	Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce				X
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			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
		the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?				
	b)	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively Considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)				X
	c)	Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				X

XVIII. DISCUSSION OF WAYS TO MITIGATE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS -

Section 15041 (a) of the State CEQA guidelines states that a lead agency for a project has authority to require changes in any or all activities involved in the project in order to lessen or avoid significant effects on the environment. No significant effects have been identified. The mitigation measures included as part of this project includes the following:

Air Quality

- Compliance with applicable air pollution control regulations.

Noise

- Compliance with all applicable noise ordinances during construction.
- Construction activities would be restricted to City and County appointed construction times.

Biological Resources

- *Four pre-construction surveys (two days surveys, two night surveys) for the arroyo toad will be conducted within 48 hours prior to construction. These surveys shall be conducted by a biologist approved by USFWS.*
- *construction workers shall be instructed on measures to protect arroyo toad.*
- *Protection measures will be implemented and the biologist will have the authority to stop work if an arroyo toad may be harmed.*
- *A Hazardous Materials release avoidance plan shall be in place prior to ground-disturbance activities.*
- *Map out any sensitive area to reduce the potential for take of arroyo toads.*
- *Report any arroyo toad killed during construction to the USFWS by telephone and in writing within 3 working days of the finding.*

- *All riparian vegetation removed shall be replaced at a ratio of 3:1.*
- *A qualified biologist shall be present when any stream diversion takes place*
- *Staging/storage area shall be located outside of the high water mark*
- *Vehicle or equipment shall not be operated in areas of ponded or flowing water.*
- *Avoid removal of walnut tree as much as possible.*

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ATTACHMENT A

DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

SANTA CLARA RIVER - SOUTH FORK (DROP STRUCTURE AND INTERIM ROCK GROINS)

I. **AESTHETICS - Would the project:**

a) ***Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?***

No impact. The proposed project would not have a substantial adverse effect on the scenic vista.

b) ***Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?***

No impact. The proposed project will not damage trees, rock outcroppings, historic buildings, or any other scenic resources within a State scenic highway.

c) ***Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?***

Less than significant impact. The proposed project will include a reinforced concrete drop structure and six interim rock groins. The new structure would impact the visual character of the site. Since the project site is within the invert of a channel and is not readily visible from the surrounding area, the impact will be less than significant.

d) ***Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?***

No impact. The project does not include any additional lighting systems. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on day or nighttime views in the area.

II. **AGRICULTURE RESOURCES - In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:**

a) ***Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?***

No impact. The location of the proposed project is not used for agricultural

purposes nor as farmland. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact on the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use.

b) *Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?*

No impact. The proposed project will not conflict with a Williamson Act contract. The proposed project will not impact any existing zoning for agricultural use.

c) *Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use?*

No impact. The proposed project does not involve changes in the existing environment that could result in the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use.

III. AIR QUALITY - Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

a) *Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?*

No impact. The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works currently complies with dust control measures enforced by the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Therefore, the proposed project will not conflict with the current implementation of the applicable air quality plan.

b) *Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?*

No impact. The proposed project would not contribute significantly to an existing or projected air quality violation. Therefore, the proposed project would not violate air quality standards.

c) *Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable Federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?*

No impact. The proposed project will neither result in a permanent increase in vehicle trips to the project location nor lead to emissions which exceed thresholds for ozone precursors. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact on ambient air quality standards.

d) *Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?*

Less than significant impact. The proposed project may create small amounts of dust from the construction and pollution from diesel trucks. However, project construction will be short term. Therefore, the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations would be less than significant.

e) *Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?*

Less than significant impact. Objectionable odors may be generated from diesel trucks during construction activities. Project construction would be short-term and temporary. Thus, the impact of the proposed project from objectionable odors is considered less than significant.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Would the project:

a) *Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

Less than significant with mitigation incorporation.

Less than significant with mitigation incorporation.

The proposed project has potential to impact several special status plant species. The slender mariposa lily, Plummer's mariposa lily, Peirson's morning-glory, San Fernando Valley spineflower, slender-horned spineflower, mesa horkelia, Robinson's pepper-grass, California spineflower, and slender nemacladus have potential to occur in the study area. Of these, the San Fernando Valley spineflower and slender-horned spineflower are federally and state-listed endangered species; however, the remainder of the species listed above meet the criteria of Section 15380 of CEQA to be treated as if they are threatened or endangered.

Focused surveys conducted at the project site found none of the special status plant species above. However, the survey found the California black walnut present. The California black walnut is listed as a California Native plant species, which is a species of limited distribution. The required mitigation for this species is to avoid its removal if possible during construction.

The proposed project also has potential to impact several special status wildlife species. Federally or state listed wildlife species that have potential to occur in the project area include the unarmored threespine stickleback, Santa Ana sucker, arroyo toad, southwestern willow flycatcher, and least Bell's vireo. Focused surveys conducted in 2002 for the southwestern willow flycatcher and least Bell's vireo were negative. Focused surveys conducted in 2002 for the unarmored threespine stickleback and Santa Ana sucker were also negative; however, these results may be due to the extreme drought conditions that occurred in this channel and throughout southern California. These special status fish species are known to occur downstream of the project site in the South Fork of the Santa Clara River.

Due to the extreme drought conditions, focused surveys could not be conducted for the arroyo toad in 2002.

Any impact to these species would be reduced to less than significant by implementing the Natural River Management Plan (NRMP) mitigation measures and the measures of the Biological Opinion regarding coverage for the arroyo toad under the NRMP. The proposed project is one of the anticipated projects described by the NRMP. The mitigation in the NRMP is summarized below:

Aquatic Species Protection: Measures to protect the unarmored three-spine stickleback and several other special status aquatic species include the following measures (among others): (1) pre-construction surveys and temporary fish/other aquatic species relocation by the USFWS or its agents; (2) restoration of adversely affected streams after construction; (3) diversion of streamflow around active construction sites in the river; and (4) use of sedimentation retention ponds, where needed.

Bird Species Protection: Measures to avoid significant impacts to the least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher and other special status bird species include the following measures: (1) pre-construction surveys to determine presence or absence; (2) prohibit construction within 300 feet of an active nest; (3) discourage human and pet entry into sensitive habitat areas; and (4) replace vireo habitat that must be removed.

Arroyo Toad: Measures to avoid significant impacts on the arroyo toad would include: (1) four pre-construction surveys conducted by a qualified biologist 48 hours prior to construction; (2) construction worker education regarding sensitivity of the arroyo toad; and (3) biological monitoring during construction.

Upland Habitat Mitigation Program: Measures to protect non-listed, but otherwise considered special status upland species and their habitat include pre-construction surveys to locate and remove individuals from construction sites, and replacement of such habitats in the upland habitat buffer zone.

Restoration of Temporarily Disturbed Areas: After the installation of the bank protection, the riverbed will be restored to its original elevation. Salvaged native vegetative debris would be spread out over the disturbed area to allow seeds and propagules to become established naturally. In addition, large trees would be replaced with 1- and 5-gallon native container stock at a 3:1 ratio.

Riparian Habitat Mitigation Program: An alternative to habitat restoration, recommended for the proposed project, would be the removal of the invasive giant reed from infested riparian habitat with prior approval from the ACOE or CDFG. Riparian weeding success would be monitored annually, with specific performance criteria to be evaluated at three and five years after implementation. The Valencia Company has an operating mitigation program which could be utilized by payment of a per acre mitigation fee.

Water Quality Protection: The Drainage Plan will ensure that significant water quality impacts will not occur from construction site erosion and municipal stormwater. The design and implementation of the water quality measures must meet current standards established by the Regional Water Quality Control Board

(RWQCB), and cannot significantly adversely impact “waters of the United States”.

Environmental Protection and Maintenance: The river maintenance procedures have been designed to avoid impacts on Endangered species and minimize impacts on other riparian resources through the use of pre-construction surveys, limitations on areas where work can be performed, relocation of special status species from work areas, and seasonal restrictions on work near Endangered species habitats.

- b) *Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?***

Less than significant with mitigation incorporation. A total of 3.43 acres of native riparian vegetation types consisting of mule fat scrub/southern willow scrub, southern cottonwood-willow riparian forest, alluvial scrub and active channel, would be impacted by construction of the proposed project. The impacts would be reduced to less than significant with implementation of the NRMP Mitigation Measures described above. The proposed project is one of the anticipated projects described in the NRMP.

- c) *Have a substantial adverse effect on Federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?***

Less than significant with mitigation incorporation. The purpose of the NRMP is to develop standard mitigation measures for all work that would occur in the Santa Clara River and San Francisquito Creek that could impact ACOE and CDFG jurisdictional areas. The NRMP addresses cumulative impacts on these drainages for the next 20 years. Any project that is consistent with the mitigation measures in the NRMP can operate under the 404/1603 permit issued to the Valencia Company. The proposed project is described in the NRMP and is therefore consistent with the NRMP mitigation measures. The impact of the drop structure overlying the riverbed was estimated to be 0.6 acre, with an additional 0.3 acre for temporary construction impacts. The NRMP estimated that the installation of bank protection along the South Fork would result in 1.50 acres of riverbed loss, with a subsequent gain in riverbed of 2.70 acres, for a net gain (benefit) of 1.20 acres of riverbed (NRMP 1998).

- d) *Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?***

Less than significant impact. Impacts from construction of the structures (i.e., rock groin and drop structure) of the project would be permanent because the rock groin would replace vegetation that provides cover, foraging opportunities, and other biological resources that facilitate wildlife movement. This impact would be considered adverse, but not significant because the use of the wildlife movement

corridor would remain.

The drop structure would be located just downstream of the Magic Mountain Parkway bridge, would extend from bank to bank with a footprint of approximately 35 feet and a 6.5-foot drop in grade. The horizontal and vertical extent of this stabilizer is not large enough to impede wildlife movement of amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Fish would not be able to move upstream of this structure unless water is sufficiently deep in the channel to inundate the drop structure. However, an existing drop structure is located within the study area at the Valencia Avenue Bridge over the South Fork of the Santa Clara River; therefore, upstream fish movement is already impeded within the study area. This drop structure is therefore not expected to result in impacts on the use of the study area as a wildlife movement corridor by amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. In addition, since no fish movement is expected upstream of the existing Valencia Boulevard drop structure, the proposed drop structure would not impact fish movement.

e) *Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?*

No impact. The proposed project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

f) *Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?*

No impact. The proposed project is described in the NRMP and its impact was therefore anticipated. Implementation of the mitigation measures in the NRMP would reduce potential project impacts to a less than significant level.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the project:

a-d) *Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource, directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource, site or geologic feature, or disturb any human remains, including those interred outside formal cemeteries?*

No impact. No known historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources exist in the project area. However, if any cultural resources, including human remains, are discovered during construction, the contractor will cease all construction activities and contact a specialist to examine the project sites as required by project specifications. Thus, the effects of the proposed project on these resources are not considered significant.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS - Would the project:

a) *Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:*

- i) ***Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.***

No impact. There are no known active faults underlying the project site and a fault rupture occurring at the project site would not be anticipated.

- ii) ***Strong seismic ground shaking?***

No impact. The project area has not been the epicenter of any known earthquake. The activities related to the project will not trigger strong seismic ground shaking.

- iii) ***Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?***

No impact. The project area is not known to have suffered any liquefaction nor has it been identified as a potential liquefaction area. Thus, the proposed project will have no impact on liquefaction.

- iv) ***Landslides?***

No impact. The proposed project will have no impact exposing people or structures to landslides.

- b) ***Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?***

No impact. The proposed project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. The purpose of the project is to provide erosion control and prevent further scouring of the channel lining. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on soil erosion and the loss of topsoil.

- c) ***Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?***

No impact. The proposed project site is not known to be on soil that is unstable or would become unstable as a result of the project.

- d) ***Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?***

No impact. The soil at the proposed project location is not considered expansive. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact by creating significant risk to life or property.

- e) ***Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?***

No impact. There are no septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems at the proposed project site. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Would the project:

- a) ***Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?***

No impact. The proposed project does not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

- b-c) ***Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment or emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials, substances or wastes within one quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?***

Less than significant impact. Combustible engine fluids from the construction equipment are potentially hazardous substances. Necessary precautions will be taken to prevent the spillage of any hazardous substances that may affect the public or the environment at the project site. It is unlikely that an explosion, emission, or release of hazardous or acutely hazardous substances will occur as a result of the proposed project. Project specifications would require the contractor to properly maintain all equipment during construction. In the event of any spills of fluids, the contractor is required to remediate according to all applicable laws regarding chemical cleanups, and the nearby school officials would be notified of the spill and any precautions to be taken. Thus, the proposed project impact on the public or the environment is considered less than significant.

- d) ***Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code, Section 65962.5, and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?***

No impact. The proposed project site is not known to be located on a listed hazardous material site.

- e) ***For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?***

No impact. The proposed project is not located within an airport land use plan nor

within two miles of a public use airport. Thus, the proposed project will not result in safety hazards for people residing or working in the project area.

- f) ***For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?***

No impact. The proposed project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. Thus, the proposed project will not result in safety hazards for people residing or working in the project area.

- g) ***Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?***

No impact. The proposed project site is located outside the public street and would not interfere with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

- h) ***Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?***

Less than significant impact. The proposed project is mostly located outside of residential areas, within the channel. Open fire will not be allowed at the project site during construction. Precautions will be taken by the contractor to prevent fire resulting from construction of the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project impact on exposure of people or structure to risk involving wildland fires will be less than significant impact.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY - Would the project:

- a) ***Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?***

No impact. The contractor is required to implement Best Management Practices as required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit issued to the County by the Regional Water Quality Control Board to minimize construction impacts on water quality. Therefore, the project will have no impact on the water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

- b) ***Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of preexisting nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?***

Less than significant impact. The proposed project would not involve the use of any water that would result in a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level. The proposed project will be constructed in the dry season when there is little or no water in the channel. However, if there is any water in the channel during construction, it will be diverted away from the project site. Therefore,

the proposed project will have less than significant impact on groundwater supplies or groundwater recharge.

- c) ***Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?***

Less than significant impact. The proposed project would require construction of a drop structure and six rock groins. This will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the project site. The project is beneficial and would result in increased flood protection and erosion control within the project area. Therefore, the proposed project will have less than significant impact on erosion or siltation on- or off-site.

- d) ***Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?***

Less than significant impact. The proposed project consists of construction of a drop structure and six rock groins in Santa Clara River-South Fork. This will not significantly alter the existing drainage pattern, including the course of flow or the amount of surface runoff, in a manner that will result in flooding within or outside Santa Clara River-South Fork. The purpose of the proposed project is to provide flood protection and erosion control to the channel and surrounding properties. Therefore, the proposed project impact on the existing drainage pattern of the site is considered less than significant.

- e) ***Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?***

No impact. The construction of the proposed project will not result in additional surface water runoff. The contractor will take precautions to ensure that any hazardous chemical spills are properly cleaned up. Thus, the proposed project will have no impact on the capacity of the stormwater drainage systems and will not provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

- f) ***Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?***

No impact. The proposed project will not impact or degrade water quality.

- g) ***Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a Federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?***

No impact. The proposed project will not place any housing within a 100-year flood hazard area.

- h) *Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?***

Less than significant impact. Construction of the proposed drop structure will slow the rate of flood flow to increase silt build up and lessen scouring of the channel bottom. The project is beneficial since it provides erosion control in the channel and therefore the impact is considered less than significant.

- i) *Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?***

No impact. The proposed project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding.

- j) *Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?***

No impact. The proposed project will not expose people or structures to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the project:

- a) *Physically divide an established community?***

No impact. The proposed project will not physically divide an established community.

- b) *Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinances) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?***

No impact. The proposed project does not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of agencies with jurisdiction over the project.

- c) *Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?***

No impact. The proposed project will not conflict with habitat conservation or natural community conservation plans.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES - Would the project:

- a) *Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?***

No impact. The construction of the proposed project would not deplete any known mineral resources. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact resulting in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource.

- b) ***Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?***

No impact. The project site is not identified as a mineral resource recovery site in the local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on locally-important mineral resource recovery sites.

XI. NOISE - Would the project result in:

- a) ***Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?***

Less than significant impact. Noise levels within the proposed project site will increase during construction. However, the impact is temporary and will be subject to existing noise ordinances and standards set by U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The construction will not expose people to any significant increase in noise levels. Thus, the impact from severe noise levels is considered less than significant.

- b) ***Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?***

No impact. The project would not generate excessive groundborne vibration or noise. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on the exposure of persons to groundborne noise and vibration.

- c) ***A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.***

No impact. There will be no substantial permanent increase in the ambient noise level due to the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on permanent noise increases.

- d) ***A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?***

Less than significant impact. During the construction phase of the project, there will be a nominal increase in existing noise levels due to construction and transportation of material to and from the project site. Construction activities will be limited to normal County and/or City regulated hours. Due to the short-term nature of the project, the impact from ambient noise levels will be less than significant.

- e-f) ***For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to***

excessive noise levels or for a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No impact. The proposed project will neither be located within an airport land use plan nor within two miles of a public use airport.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING - Would the project:

- a) *Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?***

No impact. The proposed project will not induce a population growth, either directly or indirectly. Therefore, the project will not induce a significant population growth.

- b-c) *Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere, or displace substantial numbers of people necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?***

No impact. The proposed project will not displace existing houses or people, creating a demand for replacement housing. Therefore, the project will have no impact on the construction of replacement housing.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICE - Would the project:

- a) *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: Fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, other public facilities?***

No impact. The project will not affect public service and will not result in a need for new or altered governmental services in fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities. The project will not have an impact on fire or police protection services as a result of new or physically altered governmental facilities.

XIV. RECREATION - Would the project:

- a) *Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?***

No impact. The proposed project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood or regional parks.

- b) ***Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?***

No impact. The proposed project does not include recreational facilities and does not require the construction or expansion of any recreational facilities.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC - Would the project:

- a) ***Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?***

Less than significant impact. The proposed project will require transportation of construction equipment and materials to the project site. This could minimally increase the existing traffic. However, the impact would be only during construction of the proposed project and is therefore temporary. Thus, the impact of the proposed project on substantial traffic increases is considered to be less than significant.

- b) ***Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the County Congestion Management Agency for designated roads or highways?***

No impact. The proposed project will not exceed a level of service standard established by the County Congestion Management Agency for roads or highways in the project area.

- c) ***Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location, that results in substantial safety risks?***

No impact. The proposed project will have no impact on air traffic patterns.

- d) ***Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?***

No impact. The proposed project does not involve any design features or incompatible uses constituting safety hazards.

- e) ***Result in inadequate emergency access?***

No impact. The proposed project is located within the channel and, therefore, will have no impact on emergency access.

f) *Result in inadequate parking capacity?*

No impact. The proposed project will not result in the need for more parking. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on parking capacity.

g) *Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?*

No impact. The proposed project would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS - Would the project:

a) *Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable RWQCB?*

No impact. The project will not result in contamination or an increase in discharge of wastewater that might affect wastewater treatment. Thus, the proposed project will have no impact on the wastewater treatment requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

b) *Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

No impact. The proposed project will not require the construction or expansion of new water or wastewater treatment facilities.

c) *Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

Less than significant impact. The proposed project consists of constructing a drop structure and six rock groins. The project will not require or result in the construction or expansion of new storm water drainage facilities beyond the scope of the project. Therefore, impact on the construction of new storm water drainage facilities would be less than significant.

d) *Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?*

No impact. The proposed project will not result in a need for additional water entitlements. Therefore, the project will have no impact on existing water resources.

e) *Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?*

No impact. No significant increase in the amount of wastewater discharged will occur as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on wastewater treatment capacity.

- f) ***Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?***

No impact. The proposed project will not generate any significant amount of solid waste. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on landfill capacity.

- g) ***Comply with Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?***

No impact. The project would comply with all Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE - Would the project:

- a) ***Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?***

No impact. Based on findings in this environmental review, the proposed project does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish and wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of California history.

- b) ***Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects?)***

No impact. The proposed project would not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.

- c) ***Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?***

No impact. The proposed project would not have a direct or indirect detrimental environmental impact on human beings.

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ATTACHMENT B

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES TO WRITTEN COMMENTS

RECEIVED ON THE INITIAL STUDY AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Presented below are responses to written comments received during circulation of the Initial Study/Negative Declaration regarding the proposed Santa Clara River - South Fork (Drop Structure and Interim Rock Groins) project. Responses are provided to all comments that raise environmental issues, as required by the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. A copy of each comment letter is included.

Response to letter of comment received from Caltrans

- 1-1 The contractor would obtain a Caltrans permit if any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires the use of oversized-transport vehicle on the State highways is required for this project. Furthermore, large size truck trips will be limited to off-peak commute periods.

Response to letter of comment received from California Regional Water Quality Control Board

- 2-1 The proposed project will require construction of a drop structure and six rock groins and would neither increase the amount of flow nor contribute to the increase of pollutants within the channel. Therefore, the project does not generate any of the constituents listed in the comment letter.
- 2-2 The proposed project is located within the Santa Clara River South Fork and will not generate runoff regardless of the season.
- 2-3 The proposed project will neither increase nor decrease the amount of percolation within the project site.
- 2-4 The proposed project will not contribute to change in groundwater and/or surface water contributions under historic drought conditions, or 10-year, 50-year, and 100-year flood conditions.

Response to letter of comments received from the City of Santa Clarita

- 3-1 Regarding the biological impacts of this project, a biological survey was conducted to evaluate the existence/absence and the impacts of the proposed project to threatened and endangered species at the project site. The biological survey report concluded that the proposed project is consistent with the Natural River Management Plan and therefore would employ all necessary applicable mitigation measures and the focused surveys covered under the NRMP.

- 3-2 As discussed in the Negative Declaration, the proposed drop structure will not be visible from the roadway. Although the site will be visible from the pedestrian/bike trail, there are other similar existing structures within close proximity and therefore the proposed structure will not present an unusual sight from what is already existing at the site. Furthermore, the proposed project in itself is beneficial by providing erosion control of the channel invert, and providing flood protection.

Response to faxed letter of comments received from Newhall Land and Farm

- 4-1 Regarding the Corps and the California Department of Fish and Game(CDFG) permits, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works understands that the Corps and CDFG reserves the right to make a determination of permit requirements on a case by case basis. However, a summary of the applicable mitigation measures that would be required under the Natural River Management Plan (NRMP) for the construction of the Santa Clara River South Fork Drop Structure and Rock Groins project was prepared. Any project in the Santa Clara River South Fork that is consistent with the mitigation measures in the NRMP can be covered under the 404/1603 permits issued to the Valencia Company. The proposed project is consistent with the mitigation measures in the Natural River Management Plan (NRMP) and can operate under the 404/1603 permit issued to Valencia Company.
- 4-2 LACDPW maintains its own flood control facilities. Therefore, LADPW will assume responsibility for maintenance of this new flood control facility.

ATTACHMENT C

PROGRAM FOR REPORTING AND MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION MEASURES

SANTA CLARA RIVER - SOUTH FORK DROP STRUCTURE AND INTERIM ROCK GROINS

The project includes other standard mitigation measures as discussed in Section XVIII of the Negative Declaration.

1.0 Program Management

- 1.1 After adoption of environmental mitigation measures by the Board of Supervisors, the Department of Public Works shall designate responsibility for monitoring and reporting compliance with each mitigation measure. Responsibility for monitoring and reporting compliance with mitigation measures, if any, shall be designated by Public Works, as appropriate.
- 1.2 To facilitate implementation and enforcement of this program, Public Works shall ensure that the obligation to monitor and report compliance with environmental mitigation measures is required by all project-related contracts between the County and A/E, prime construction contractor, and any other person or entity who is designated to monitor and/or report compliance under this program during the preconstruction and construction phases.
- 1.3 Public Works, as appropriate, shall take all necessary and appropriate measures to ensure that each project related environmental mitigation measure, which was adopted, is implemented and maintained.

2.0 Preconstruction

- 2.1 Public Works is responsible for incorporating mitigation measures into project design and confirming in writing that final construction drawings include all design-related mitigation measures.
- 2.2 Public Works is responsible for incorporating mitigation measures and confirming in writing that final construction drawings include all design-related mitigation measures.

3.0 Construction

- 3.1 Public Works or prime construction contractor for project and/or for project-related off-site improvements is responsible for constructing and/or monitoring

the construction of mitigation measures incorporated in final construction documents and reporting instances of noncompliance in writing.

- 3.2 Public Works or prime construction contractor for project and/or for project-related off-site improvements is responsible for implementation and/or monitoring the implementation of mitigation measures affecting methods and practices of construction, (e.g., hours of operation, noise control of machinery), and reporting instances of noncompliance in writing.
- 3.3 Public Works is responsible for monitoring compliance of prime construction contractor(s) with responsibility set forth in 3.1 above and reporting noncompliance in writing.

4.0 **Project Operation**

- 4.1 After completion and final acceptance of the project, Public Works is responsible for monitoring and maintaining compliance with adopted mitigation measures, which affect project operation (e.g., revegetation and sound barriers).

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